

Message Text

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PASS USDA FOR WITCHER, KARPOFF, SHARPLESS, FAS:
WILLETT, J.J. MILLER, ERS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR OECD
SUBJECT: JAN 17-19 MEETING, WP 3 (DAIRY PRODUCTS)
PART II.

REF: OECD PARIS 02506

1. SUMMARY. EC DEL PRESENTED PAPER, "RESTORING
BALANCE ON THE MILK MARKET" WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO
(1) USE MILK ON THE FARM, (2) INTRODUCE A CO-RESPONSIBIL-
ITY LEVY, (3) SUSPEND COMMUNITY AIDS TO INVESTMENT,
(4) TAX FATS AND OILS, (5) CONVERT DAIRY HERDS AND
(6) TAKE MEASURES TO ENLARGE BUTTER MARKET. US DEL
ATTACKED PROPOSAL TO TAX FATS. SWISS DEL PRESENTED
PROPOSED QUOTA SYSTEM ON MILK DELIVERIES. CANADIAN
DEL PRESENTED CANADIAN QUOTA PROGRAM WHICH ESSENTIALLY
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AIMS AT BUTTERFAT SELF-SUFFICIENCY. AUSTRALIAN,
NORWEGIAN AND FINNISH DELS DISCUSSED RECOMMENDATIONS
TO REDUCE MILK PRODUCTION IN THEIR COUNTRIES. JOINT
MEETING WITH WP4 PLANNED FOR APRIL, NEXT WP 3 MEETING
EARLY JUNE. REPORT TO COMM FOR AGR ADOPTED. ATTENTION
INVITED TO STATISTICAL DISCREPANCIES DISCUSSED IN PAR.
8. END OF SUMMARY.

2. MEASURES FOR IMPROVING THE BALANCE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. EC DEL (BODIN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD CONSIDERED ASKING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AGR/WP3(76)23, "RESTORING BALANCE ON THE MILK MARKET," A REPRODUCTION OF NEWSLETTER ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, NO. 6, AUG. 1976, BECAUSE IT WAS A PROPOSAL WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED. HOWEVER, SINCE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED, WITHDRAWING IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLISH. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE OUGHT TO BE NO DISCUSSION OF THESE PROPOSALS. HE THEN PRESENTED A SUMMARY OF THE DOCUMENT. REFERRING TO EXPIRED REGULATION WHICH REQUIRED MIXING NFDM INTO FEED CONCENTRATES HE SAID THAT EFFORT HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT. PROBLEM OF MILK SURPLUS WAS FIRST RAISED IN 1963. DURING 1969-71 IT WAS HOPED FREEZING MILK PRICES (AND THUS REDUCING REAL PRICES) MIGHT SOLVE PROBLEM. THEN THERE WAS HOPE THAT THE ENTRY OF THE UK WITH ITS DAIRY DEFICIT INTO THE EC MIGHT SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT HAD HELPED FOR BUTTER BUT NOT FOR NFMS. WITHOUT THE 1976 DROUGHT, EC MILK PRODUCTION WOULD HAVE JUMPED 8 PCT (COMMENT: OTHER EC DEL BJORNSTAD SAID 5-7 PCT THE DAY BEFORE); THE DROUGHT HAD REDUCED THE GAIN TO 1-1/2 PCT. OLD FARMERS WERE NOT RETIRING RAPIDLY ENOUGH. YOUNG PEOPLE WERE NOT LEAVING FARMS IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS. HERD SIZE WAS INCREASING. MILK PRODUCTION WAS GROWING BY 1.7 PCT P.A. THERE MIGHT BE A 10 PCT SURPLUS. THERE WAS A DISEQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE PROTEIN. THERE WAS A LACK OF HARMONY BETWEEN ACTIONS

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TO SLOW SLAUGHTER AND TO REDUCE MILK PRODUCTION. THUS THE PROPOSALS ARE (1) FARM USE (NON-DELIVERY) OF MILK, (2) CO-RESPONSIBILITY LEVY WITH CO-PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING (COMMENT: IN THIS CHOICE OF WORDS, HE WENT BEYOND THE TEXT WHICH READS, "CONSULTATION PROCEDURE"), (3) SUSPENSION OF COMMUNITY AIDS TO INVESTMENT AND (4) LEVY OF A TAX ON FATS.

BJORNSTAD THEN CONTINUED PRESENTATION WITH DISCUSSION OF "CONVERSION OF DAIRY HERDS" IN FUZZY TERMS AND WITH A CLEAR DISCUSSION OF MEASURES TO ENLARGE BUTTER MARKET.

CHAIR THEN IGNORED EARLIER EC REQUEST AND INVITED DISCUSSION. US DEL (HIRSCH) EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT REPORT HAD BEEN PRESENTED AND CONGRATULATED EC DELEGATES ON THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE. HOWEVER, HE REGRETTED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF PAPER HAD EVEN BEEN CONSIDERED. THE IDEA THAT THE EC HAD TO TAKE ACTION

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BEFORE IT COULD HAVE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AND ANALYZED
AT OECD DID NOT DO JUSTICE TO OUR INTERDEPENDENCE.
HOWEVER, THERE WAS ALSO A MORE DIRECT REASON FOR A
DISCUSSION HERE AT OECD. THAT WAS THE TRADE PLEDGE.
HE REGRETTED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO TAX FATS AND OILS
HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS BEING STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.
HE CONSIDERED THAT PROPOSAL A VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT
OF THE TRADE PLEDGE. HE DIDN'T DOUBT THAT LAWYERS
COULD ARGUE THAT THERE WAS NO VIOLATION OF THE LETTER
OF THE PLEDGE. HOWEVER, SUCH A TAX WOULD LOWER OVERALL
DEMAND FOR FATS AND OILS AND IT WOULD IMPROVE THE
COMPETITIVE POSITION OF BUTTER VIS-A-VIS MARGARINE.
BOTH CONSEQUENCES WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S.
SOYBEAN EXPORTS. SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN MEAL HAD BEEN
GIVEN UNCONDITIONAL, FREE ACCESS IN THE DILLON ROUND.
ANY TAX ON SOYBEANS OR SOYBEAN PRODUCTS WOULD FORCE
EC TRADING PARTNERS TO BEAR THE COST OF ADJUSTING EC
DAIRY ECONOMY. THE PRINCIPAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM
SEEMED TO BEIN PRICE POLICIES. "CO-RESPONSIBILITY"

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WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION BUT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. MEASURES TO ENLARGE THE BUTTER MARKET IN THE FORM OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS AND SIMILAR MEASURES WERE ALSO ACCEPTABLE AS PARTIAL SOLUTIONS.

FRENCH DEL (CHEVALIER) SOUGHT TO REBUT BY COMPLAINING ABOUT US CHEESE IMPORT POLICY. US DEL APPEALED TO THE CHAIR TO DIRECT THE DISCUSSION BACK TO THE TOPIC; BUT HE SAID HE NEEDED NOT HIDE ANYTHING EVEN IF NOT GERMANE TO THE DISCUSSION. THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION HAD DECLARED THAT CHANGES IN THE US DAIRY PROGRAM COULD BE NEGOTIATED UNDER MTN AGAINST MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS AND THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION MAY WELL ADDRESS ITSELF TO THIS PROBLEM IN COMING MONTHS. THE CHAIR THEN ADMONISHED THE WP TO STICK TO THE TOPIC WHEREUPON FRENCH DEL SAID CHEESE WAS SIMPLY PROCESSED SOYBEANS. THE US FAILED TO TAKE BACK ITS OWN EXPORTS IN PROCESSED FORM. "CO-RESPONSIBILITY" ON IMPORTED FAT WAS ESSENTIAL. US DEL POINTED OUT THAT IN LIGHT OF THE ROUGHAGE RESOURCES IN THE EC MOST PROTEIN MEAL WAS FED TO HOGS AND POULTRY. HOWEVER, IN ADDITION HIGH GRAIN PRICES IN THE EC DURING MOST YEARS OF THE PAST DECADE HAD HAD THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING ADDITIONAL MEAL CONSUMPTION TO SATISFY CALORIC RATHER THAN SPECIFIC PROTEIN FEED REQUIREMENTS. IN ANY CASE IT WAS ERRONEOUS TO BLAME THE EC MILK SURPLUS ON US SOYBEAN EXPORTS. THE AUSTRALIAN DEL (LILBURN) ADDED THAT ONLY 20 PCT OF SOYBEAN MEAL WENT TO CATTLE IN THE EC.

UK (WILLIAMS) POSTULATED PRESSURE ON THE MILK PRICE TO ELIMINATE THE SURPLUS BY NOT RAISING PRICES PROPORTIONATE WITH INFLATION. AUSTRALIAN DEL POSTULATED "SIGNAL BACK TO THE FARMER WHEN SURPLUSES ARE CREATED."

3. SWISS DEL (GROS) PRESENTED "THE PROBLEM OF MILK SURPLUSES IN SWITZERLAND", AGR/WP3(76)26. SWISS ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSING QUOTAS ON DOMESTIC MILK DELIVERIES TO CURTAIL PRODUCTION. OVERQUOTA MILK DELIVERIES MAY BE PENALIZED AT THE RATE OF SF0.40/KG, I.E. RECEIVE A PRICE OF ONLY SF0.35 INSTEAD OF THE BASIC PRICE OF 0.75/KG. SWISS DEL SAID SWISS CHEESE EXPORT SETUP WOULD IN NO WAY BE AFFECTED BY INTRODUCTION OF QUOTA SCHEME. (COMMENT: BEFORE LEAVING PARIS, BRUGGER TOLD AGATTACHE PRIVATELY SWISS GOVT WOULD NOT WAIT FOR REFERENDUM BUT IMPOSE QUOTA SYSTEM AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE. NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG 1/21/77 REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEASURE DTD

1/19/77 EFFECTIVE 5/1/77 WITH PENALTY RATE OF SF 0.50
PER LITER, I.E., OVERQUOTA MILK PRICE OF SF 0.205/L
(0.75 MINUS 0.50 MINUS 0.045 LONGSTANDING ASSESSMENT.)

4. CANADIAN DEL (SAVAGE) PRESENTED "CANADIAN MEASURES
TO CURTAIL MILK PRODUCTION," AGR/WP3(76)25. ALLUDING
TO EC PROPOSALS, HE SAID CANADIAN PRODUCERS ARE
NOT JUST "CORESPONSIBLE" BUT "RESPONSIBLE". UNDER
CANADIAN QUOTA PLAN WITH AVERAGE MILK PRICE OF \$8.69/
100 LBS. OVERQUOTA LEVY IS \$8.60, I.E. VIRTUALLY NO
PAYMENT. CANADA DECIDED LONG AGO TO BE ESSENTIALLY
SELF-SUFFICIENT IN BUTTER FAT PRODUCTION. IN THE
ABSENCE OF A SUFFICIENT DEMAND FOR NFMS, THAT MEANS
AN NFMS SURPLUS. IF POLICY WERE TO PRODUCE NFMS NEEDS
ONLY, INDUSTRY WOULD BE ONLY 50 OR 60 PCT OF PRESENT
SIZE. ALSO, IF EXPORT SUBSIDIES WERE WITHDRAWN, INDUS-

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TRY WOULD HAVE TO BE SHRUNK.

5. AUSTRALIAN DEL DISCUSSED "ADAPTATION OF THE
AUSTRALIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY TO MARKET DIFFICULTIES",
AGR/WP3(76)24. PROPOSALS ARE TO MINIMIZE ISSUANCE OF
NEW DAIRY LICENCES IN 1976/77, TO MODIFY LIQUID MILK

QUOTA SCHEME AND TO COMBINE ERADICATION OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS WITH CONTRACTION OF INDUSTRY. A FRIENDLY DEBATE WITH THE N.Z. DEL (SHEPHERD) ON WHICH COUNTRY WAS THE MOST EFFICIENT PRODUCER WAS SETTLED BY REFERENCE TO THE DATA IN USDA-ERS-AER 278 T.L3 (P.37).

6. NORWEGIAN DEL (HJULSTAD) REPORTED ON INTRODUCTION OF QUOTA SYSTEM AS A RESULT OF STARTING DISCUSSION ON GENERAL AGR POLICY LAST YEAR. FINNISH DEL REPORTED PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE SMALL LEVY TO FINANCE SURPLUS MARKETING BUT NO QUOTAS.

7. JOINT MEETING WITH WP4 (LIVESTOCK AND MEAT) PLANNED UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR APRIL, NEXT WP3 MEETING EARLY JUNE.

8. REPORT TO COMM FOR AGR ADOPTED. COPY OF DRAFT MAILED TO WITCHER 1/25. COMPARISON OF 1976 PRODUCTION TABLE (UPDATED VERSION OF AGR/WP3(77)1) WITH CORRESPONDING DATA IN FAS, FOR. AGR. CIRC. FD6-76 SHOWS SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN COUNTRY TONNAGES OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCT DATA BUT SIMILAR PERCENTAGE CHANGES FROM 1975. APPARENTLY FAS/W IN MANY INSTANCES USES PRODUCTION CONCEPT DIFFERENT FROM THAT USED BY COUNTRIES WHEN THEY REPORT TO OECD; E.G. MILK PRODUCTION IN 1,000 MT, AUSTRIA, FAS: 3,317 (UP 2 PCT), AUSTRIAN DEL HERE: 2182 (UP 3 PCT) OR UK, FAS:13,550 (UP 3 PCT), UK DEL HERE: 14,047 (UP 4 PCT). AGATTACHE SUGGESTS ANALYSIS OF THESE DIFFERENCES BY FAS/W.

9. REGARDING AGENDA ITEM ON DAIRY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK REPORTED IN REFTEL THE DISCUSSION OF THE US DEL'S STATEMENT DESERVES TO BE REPORTED (US STATEMENT WAS BASED ON DECEMBER "DAIRY SITUATION" WITH APPROPRIATE UPDATING.) AUSTRALIAN DEL IMPRESSED BY GROWTH IN U.S. CHEESE CONSUMPTION, ASKED WHETHER BEEF WAS PRICED TOO HIGH IN U.S. SO THAT POTENTIAL BEEF CONSUMPTION WAS DIVERTED TO CHEESE. US DEL REPLIED THAT HE WAS RECOGNIZING AUSTRALIA'S PARAMOUNT INTEREST IN EXPORTING BEEF TO US; THE US BEEF MARKET WAS RELATIVELY FREE AND OPEN WHEREAS CHEESE IMPORTS VALUED BELOW \$2.20/KG ARE SUBJECT TO QUOTAS. MOREOVER, THERE ARE PRICE SUPPORTS FOR MILK. CONSIDERING THAT AND THE EFFICIENT MARKETING SYSTEM OF THE U.S., THE QUESTION HAD TO BE ANSWERED IN THE NEGATIVE. UK DEL (WILLIAMS) STATED THAT THE TEMPORARY INCREASE IN US CHEESE IMPORT QUOTAS IN 1973-74 HAD DIVERTED NEW ZEALAND CHEESE FROM THE UK TO THE US, HAD THUS CREATED A TEMPORARY SHORTAGE IN THE UK WHICH LED TO INVESTMENT DECISIONS (IN UK CHEESE PROCESSING) WHICH

IN THE LONGER RUN HAD TURNED OUT TO HAVE BEEN FAULTY.

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US DEL COMMENTED HE HAD NEVER LEARNED OF ANY FOREIGN CRITICISM OF THE TEMPORARY US IMPORT QUOTA INCREASES FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS IN 1973-74, ONLY REGRETS THAT THEY WERE NOT PERMANENT; HOWEVER, HE WAS AWARE THAT NEW ZEALAND'S ABILITY TO EXPORT HAD BEEN LIMITED DURING THAT TIME BECAUSE OF DROUGHT. NZ DEL THEN FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN "A MARKET TRANSFER" AT THAT TIME, HINTED AT HIS COUNTRY'S NEED TO DIVERSIFY SALES OUTLETS AND DECLINED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY INVESTMENT DECISIONS IN THE UK. HE ALSO ASKED FOR ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION PER COW OF BEST QUINTILE IN US AS AN INDICATION OF HOW HIGH AVERAGE ANNUAL US MILK PRODUCTION PER COW MIGHT RISE WITH PRESENT STATE OF DAIRY SCIENCE. ANSWER (IN WRITING AFTER MEETING): IN 1974, BEST QUINTILE (WHICH HAPPENS TO BE NUMBER OF COWS ENROLLED IN DAIRY-HERD IMPROVEMENT ASSNS) PRODUCED 5,971 KG, 28 PCT MORE THAN AVERAGE PRODUCTION OF ALL COWS.
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Message Attributes

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